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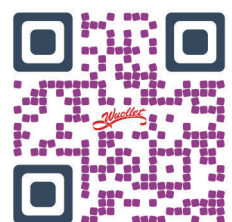
QUEER DISOBEDIENCE



A HISTORY OF PRIDE & PROTEST IN THE TWIN CITIES



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at citypages.com



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144,768

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111

Gunshot victims in Minneapolis from Memorial Day through Monday, when nine people were shot in three incidents

\$10,000

U.S. Postal Service reward for information on burglary and arson of three south Minneapolis post offices

“This should be a commercial for Instacart services.”

Reader Jared Zachary responds to “Ex-cop in George Floyd killing probably regrets this Cub Foods trip” at citypages.com

A VERY UN-SPECIAL EPISODE

THERE’S NOT MUCH REASON to believe serious police reform is a priority for Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa), a guy who routinely calls Minneapolis and St. Paul the “inner city,” and thought the real victim of George Floyd rioting was “suburban moms.” During a one-week special session that ended Saturday, Gazelka and his caucus rejected dozens of DFL proposals, including a ban on “warrior-style” training and residency requirements for officers to live in cities they police. With no deal made and nothing accomplished, the Senate adjourned upon reaching an arbitrary one-week deadline Gazelka had imposed. “I think we could all benefit from a breather here,” he said. Try telling that to George Floyd.

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PROFILED

Complaint: Black jail guards weren't allowed around Derek Chauvin

On May 29, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was booked into the Ramsey County Jail for the murder of George Floyd.

An acting sergeant who usually handles high-profile inmates began the normal pad-down. According to charges filed with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Superintendent Steve Lydon stopped him, and had white officers take his place and continue Chauvin's intake process.

The sergeant, who is Black, talked to a colleague, who reportedly told him the issue was about his race.

Lydon was allegedly barring all employees of color from the fifth floor, where Chauvin was to be held in isolation, and forbidding them to come into contact with him. Their jobs would be performed by white people instead. According to the charges, which were reported first by the Star Tribune, some of the officers of color held a meeting

to process what was happening. They called it a "segregation order." Some cried. Some wondered aloud if they should just quit.

All eight of them had written accounts of later, when they took it up with Lydon, and he allegedly admitted to banning officers of color from the fifth floor. At first he defended his decision, and said it wasn't racist. Then, after about 45 minutes, he reversed it.

Officers took the issue up through their union, and in an ensuing investigation, Lydon tried explaining himself. He said he was trying to protect them, and thought Floyd's death at Chauvin's hands would probably have engendered some "acute racialized trauma" in his employees.

"Then I met with the individuals that were working at the time and explained to them what my thought process was at the time and assured them that the decision was made out of concern for them and was in no way related to a concern regarding

their professionalism or Chauvin's safety," Lydon's statement said.

In his own statement, Sheriff Bob Fletcher says his office is looking into what happened.

According to the New York Times, some officers say the policy was still in effect during a shift two days later.

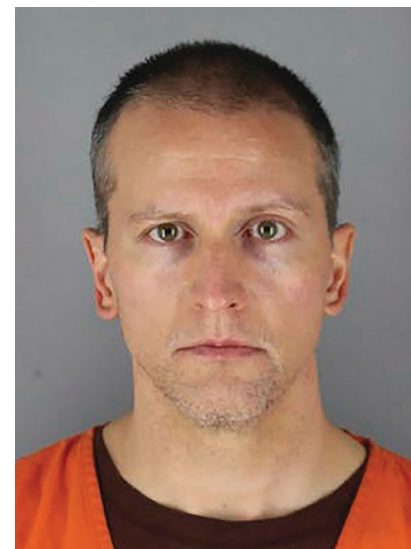
Bonnie M. Smith, a Minneapolis attorney representing the officers, called the move "absurd" in a press conference on Sunday.

"This order didn't help protect anyone," she said. "It was a blatantly discriminatory order."

Chauvin was moved last month to a state prison just outside of St. Paul.

In addition to the claims of discrimination, there have also been reports of Chauvin being given preferential treatment during his time at Ramsey County. One of the officers of color said he'd seen a white lieutenant in Chauvin's cell letting him use her phone, which is against the jail's policy.

Lydon, meanwhile, has been temporarily



HENNEPIN COUNTY JAIL

removed from his post and will report to Undersheriff Bill Finney with "modified duties."

The Black officers are asking that Lydon be permanently reassigned from running the jail, and seeking compensation for emotional distress and missed work from shifts they took off around the time of the segregation order. —HANNAH JONES

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QUEER DISOBEDIENCE

A HISTORY of PRIDE & PROTEST in the TWIN CITIES

by
EMILY CASSEL

Remember: The first Pride was a riot. It wasn't sponsored by Walmart and Coca Cola. Comcast didn't wave a rainbow flag. There certainly wasn't a Wells Fargo float. That first Pride, in 1969, was an uprising led by queer people of color. It was a rebellion, and it began with a police raid on a New York City gay bar that was a home to many of the queer community's most marginalized members: homeless youth, Black trans women. There were six nights of unrest. It was a turning point for the gay rights movement.

Plenty of people have been quick to condemn the protests that followed George Floyd's murder at the hands of Minneapolis police. Burning buildings isn't the "right" way to do it, they say. Smashing windows doesn't "actually" do anything.

But the riots at Stonewall are just one example that shows: It works. So this year, to celebrate Pride, we're taking a look back at some of the queer acts of civil and not-so-civil disobedience that have transformed the Twin Cities.

Thank you to our models: Frozaen Pissás, BE., Noah Lawrence-Holder, Raquelle, Puffy, Victor Samuels Farmah, Tatum Vanyo, Sterling Miller, Dom Dates, and New Black City dance group: Mimi Solis, Destiny Anderson, Zhane Jackson, Luis Nufio, Lydia Jones, and Mary Hayes

photo by EMILY UTNE

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Frozaen, Puffy
and Noah

EMILY UTNE

What does Pride mean to you?

We asked our beautiful, talented, queer and proud cover stars

FROZAEN PISSÁS

(she/her)
Drag performer
@mizfrozaen

"Pride to me means accepting our brothers, sisters, and trans siblings. It means being who we are without fear. Pride is embracing yourself. You are who you are and it is good, don't let anyone take it away from you. Express yourself how you want or how you can. You don't have to prove anything. You're real. You are valid."

NOAH LAWRENCE-HOLDER

(they/them)
Artist and illustrator
@blormpy

"I think the way we celebrate Pride has become really commercialized. Every corporation is putting out a post with a rainbow. It's so important to remember the history of pride and where it started: a Black, trans woman leading a violent riot in retaliation against unjust police."

TATUM VANYO

(she/her/they/them)
Multimedia artist and fashion
paraprofessional
@coochie.muscle

"Pride is the time of year when the chic mystiques, dressy geeks, and super freaks take to the streets! You can be whoever you want to be, and feel empowered to do so. The BIPOC LGBTQ+ community will always welcome you with open arms, no matter your identity."

PUFFY

(they/them)
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BE.

*(they/them)
Musician
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“To me, Pride means love, strength, equality, and hope. Each annual celebration is a reminder to love myself for what makes me unique and to keep fighting for equality. The joy that surrounds Pride month is unparalleled, even during these challenging times.”

VICTOR SAMUELS FARMAH

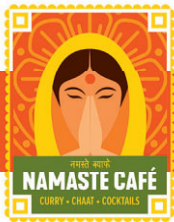
*(he/him)
Designer, Frika
@frika_designs
Model, Raquelle (she/her)
is in the red dress*

“PRIDE is: Perseverance, Rebellious, Insightful, Dense, Engaging. Pride is ME.”

I.

FREE and the fight to end workplace discrimination

Minneapolis became the first city in the country to pass a non-discrimination ordinance in 1975, thanks in part to Twin Cities activists—including members of the student group FREE (Fight Repression of Erotic Expression)—who had been advocating for fair employment practices for years.



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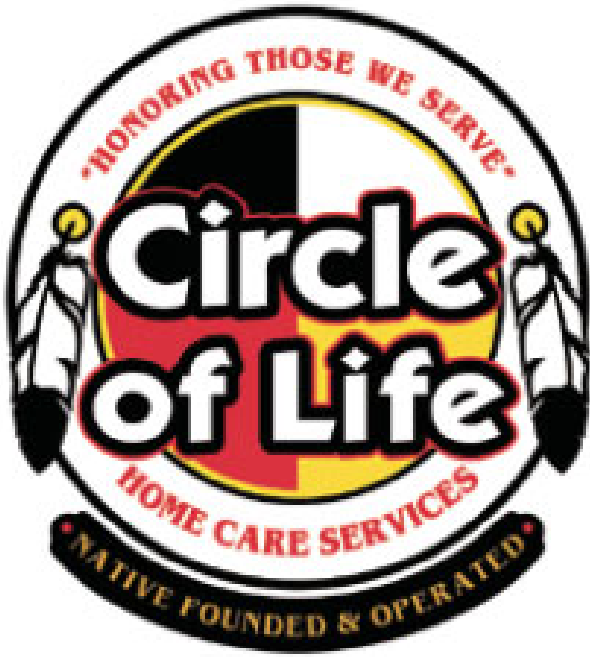


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also more moderate members of the gay establishment who thought it was better to go by the book: write petitions, study law, run for office. "They thought they would scare people with direct action." "They were trying to identify what a gay rights movement would look like,"

"They were trying to identify what a gay rights movement would look like."

One of FREE's first major actions came in 1970, when the State Services Radio for the Blind fired a man named Thom Higgins after he told his boss he was gay. About 30 people picketed Higgins's employer, in an act Minnesota Historical Society historian Noah Barth, who made a documentary about the radical queer student group, calls "somewhat revolutionary."

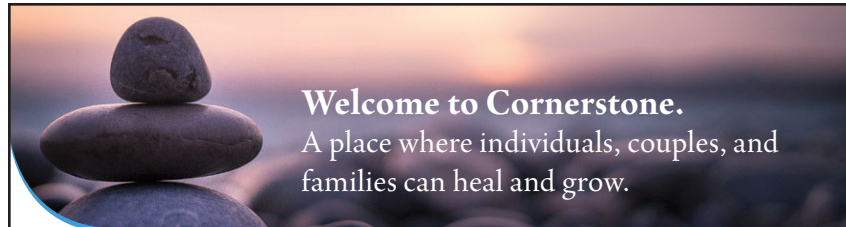
"It's coming a year now—a little under a year—after Stonewall. So pretty early on, but also, like, in Minnesota," Barth says. There were other groups advocating for gay rights at the time, but not a lot of that work was happening in the Upper Midwest.

Even within FREE, Barth says, there was uncertainty about how to protest. The group had its "radical hippie types," but

Barth says. "It's 1970. They're defining it as they go. They know what other movements look like, but this is not like other movements... they were afraid of alienating a lot of the people that would contribute to their organization by doing something so public and so abrasive."

But other public efforts toward ending job discrimination followed. For a campaign to bar anti-gay companies from recruiting at the U, FREE sent out letters to employers throughout Minnesota asking if they'd hire an openly gay person. One of those employers was Honeywell, which said: Nope. "They put so much pressure on... that eventually Honeywell yields," Barth says.

And there was a rally for Mike McConnell, who married FREE president Jack Baker in 1971, making them the first



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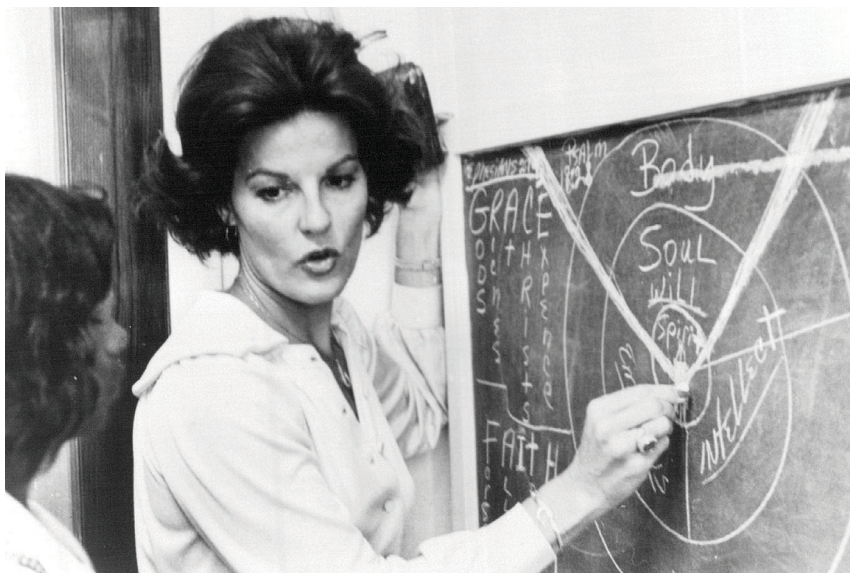
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Top: Thom Higgins holds his hands up in defiance after slapping a banana cream pie in the face of Anita Bryant. Middle: Bryant conducting a weekly Sunday school class. Bottom: A protester dressed as Bryant in 1977 at Pride in Loring Park.

That hall, it should be noted, has historically hosted powerful acts of dissent. In 1969, Black students occupied Morrill to protest institutional racism at the U, eventually leading to the founding of the African American and African Studies Department (one of the nation's first). Most recently, it's where students gathered to get Minneapolis Police off campus.

2.

The pie-ing of Anita Bryant

It's one of the most satisfying two-minute clips on YouTube. Notorious anti-gay activist Anita Bryant is on a panel in Des Moines discussing her work to end protections

legally married same-sex couple in the history of the United States. McConnell, who had been hired by the U of M libraries, had his offer rescinded by the board of regents when they found out. So FREE demonstrated again, this time in front of Morrill Hall.



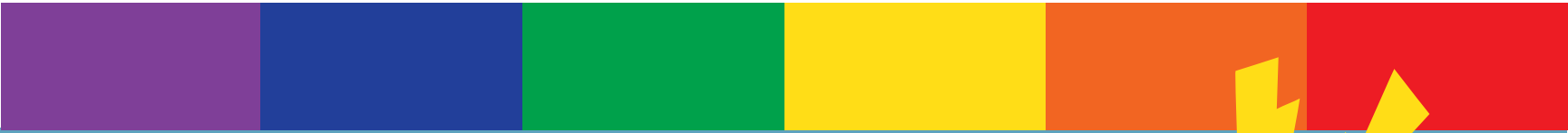
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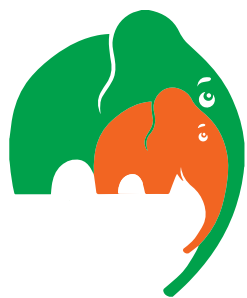
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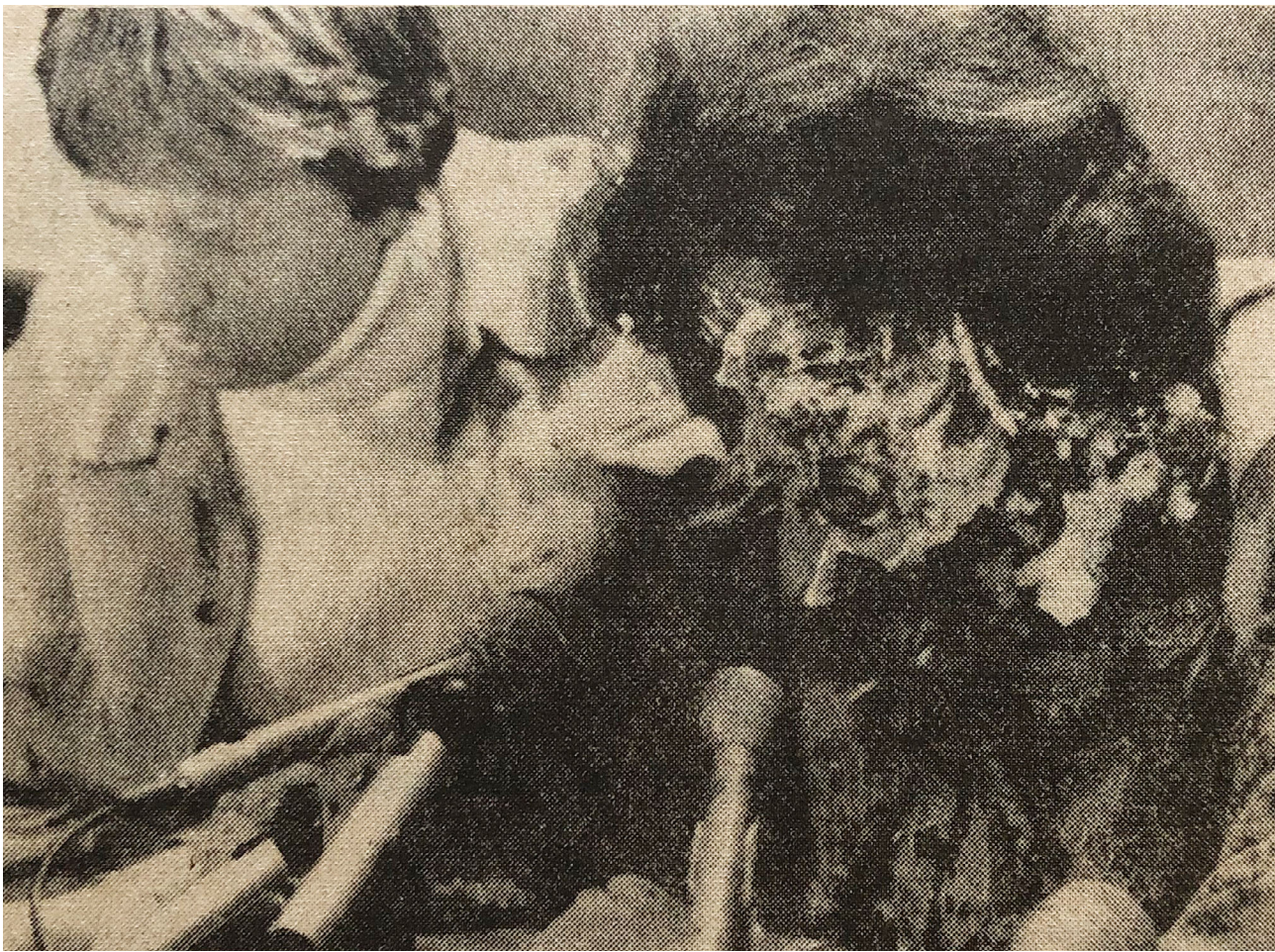


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Anita Bryant, post-pie

for “the homosexuals.” Out of nowhere, a fruit pie flies across the screen, splattering all over her bigoted face.

This is in 1977, and the “Save Our Children” campaign is in full swing. The group wanted to overturn new laws around the nation protecting gay people from discrimination, and Bryant—a former beauty queen and Christian singer who was also the face of Florida Orange Juice—was its most prominent spokesperson. “She had a kind of celebrity that was very much tied to conservative, right Christians,” explains Kevin Murphy, one of the editors of *Queer Twin Cities*.

“At the center of their agenda was this idea that gay men, especially, would recruit children,” Murphy explains. “They can’t procreate by themselves, so they need to increase their numbers through recruitment.” (They were also early proponents of the whole, “if we let men marry each other, where does it end—with people marrying Saint Bernards?” line of thought.) Save Our Children was working to reverse ordinances around the country that protected gay rights, and with some success: They helped overturn a Miami-Dade County law that banned discrimination in areas

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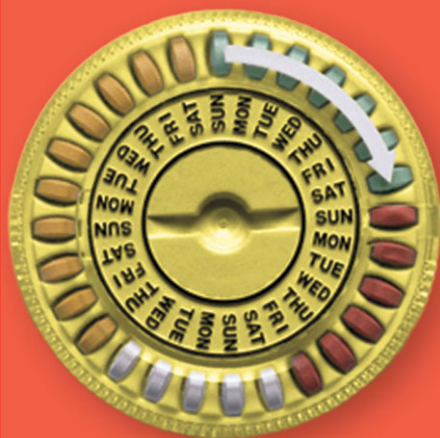


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One of the places Bryant targeted was St. Paul, which had passed civil protections on the basis of sexual preference in 1974. A Twin Cities gay rights group called the Target City Coalition didn't love that. "They were radical in the way they protested—you could see the kind of street, performative politics... Target City Coalition believed in the kind of protesting that would get a lot of media attention and public attention through spectacle," Murphy says. And what better way to do that than with pie?

"Pie-ing is spectacular, right?" Murphy laughs. "It's an act that gets attention, it has some humor, there's an element of camp. It's in the tradition of throwing cream pie in people's faces that comes from, like, the Three Stooges, and vaudeville. It's made for media culture."

Thom Higgins wasn't just the poster boy for workplace non-discrimination... he's also the activist who splattered Bryant with pie. Thom and co. did a few famous pie-ings—they pied the Catholic Archbishop of Minnesota, to somewhat mixed public reaction—but this one was huge.

"That clip was featured on *Saturday Night Live*, in the Weekend Update segment. It immediately got a lot of attention," Murphy says. "And that clip, in

the age of the internet, it's circulated so widely that it's become influential on its own."

Again, there was concern within activist groups that the tactic was inadvisable, that embracing radical queer politics would turn people against their cause. And in fact, Save Our Children did manage to overturn protections for gay people in St. Paul.

"In the immediate sense, it was not successful," Murphy said. "In the longer-

"There were all these marvelous staff women who saw in this thing something that had to do with them."

term sense, though, it was very successful, in that if politics are debated and understood within the realm of popular culture, then finding ways to engage the media and popular culture in protest can be very effective."

3. The creation of the Women's Studies Department at the University of Minnesota

In the mid-1960s, Toni McNaron was a professor in the English Department at the U of M. It was a time of great protest—for the establishment of ethnic studies and

and plain-old feminism, around the city with other people," McNaron says today.

A group of grad students asked McNaron if she'd polish up their proposal to establish women's studies at the university and take it to the academic powers in place. She gathered a few faculty members who were willing to help show the enthusiasm was there, and... it worked. Sort of.

"We got approved as a program," McNaron says—but not as a department. "Now, what you need to know is that was how the university generally thought it could say 'yes' to something, but it would go away eventually because there wouldn't be enough support."

Students asked McNaron if she would be the first women's studies... "person," McNaron chuckles. "You couldn't be called a chair, because you didn't have a department." They gave her a desk in a room in the college of liberal arts and "about a third of a secretary's time." And then, she began trying to find a list of dates for when she had to have course descriptions in.

"If there had not been incredible support by a lot of secretarial staff, we never would have made it past the first year." McNaron says she would get phone calls saying the deadline had passed, but the secretaries wouldn't tell anyone. "There



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were all these marvelous staff women who saw in this thing something that had to do with them.”

And the minute courses opened, they were full. Within two years the “program” became a department; in another two, it was allowed to have a major and a minor rather than a concentration. And shortly after that, it became the first non-coastal graduate women’s studies program in the country.

“What began to happen is the lesbian component of this bunch of people began understanding that it wasn’t enough to have just a week, or a book, or a couple of books—that there really needed to be something that began to raise more

Top: An October 2012 photo of CeCe McDonald, who was being held at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater. Bottom: McDonald, left, and Andrea Jenkins take selfies together at a 2016 fundraiser.

complicated issues,” McNaron says. At the time, she was still closeted. Not in her personal life; she’d meet with out groups to talk about and share ideas. “But at the university, I was petrified.”

When she taught “Introduction to Women’s Studies,” she’d refer to lesbians as “they.” But eventually, with the support of her friends (and after making the decision to get sober), she came out

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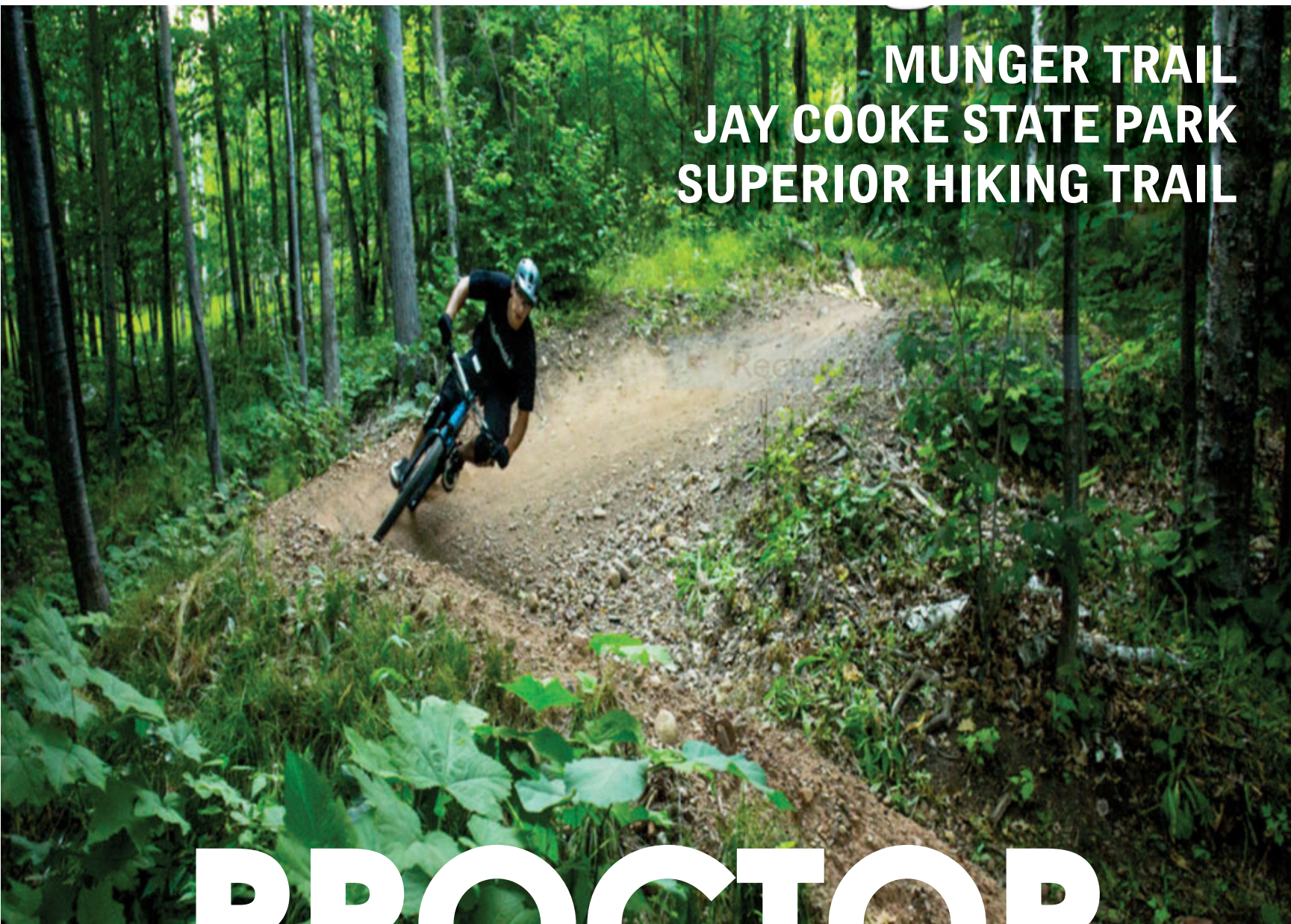
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in front of a class.

"I have a feeling no more than about 15 of them even heard the difference when I said 'lesbians, we,'" McNaron says. "But I heard the difference, and my friends heard the difference, and it was an incredibly important moment for me." She started working to bring more queer ideas to campus, and told the English Department she wanted to teach lesbian literature.

McNaron was the first out professor at the university, followed shortly by Allan

scissors in her backpack—"not to mention that Black transgender women need to be able to protect themselves." And, well. The man, Dean Schmitz, died of stab wounds to his chest.

"Literally, this is the same time George Zimmerman is on trial for claiming to 'stand his ground' against Trayvon Martin," Jenkins explains. "It was literally the same time. But here in Minnesota, Mike Freeman, the county attorney who's still county attorney now, said that CeCe had a duty to retreat.

"But that sparked an international movement around trans rights. CeCe led that. From jail. She sparked her own movement."

Spear, who became one of the first openly gay Americans in elected office in 1974. McNaron is now a professor emeritus of English at the U and the author of several books, including *Poisoned Ivy*—which is about lesbophobic and homophobic bullying in academia.

4.

The Free CeCe Movement

The movement to free CeCe McDonald was a seminal moment in trans history and activism—not just in the Twin Cities, but around the world.

"I think one of the cool things about the CeCe McDonald story is... it really helped, I think, create some intersectionality between the Black Lives Matter movement and the trans rights movement," says Minneapolis City Council member Andrea Jenkins, the first Black openly transgender woman elected to public office in the United States.

It was in June 2011, around midnight, and CeCe, a Black trans woman, was walking with friends to the Cub on East Lake Street. Outside of the Schooner Tavern—right by the Third Precinct, Jenkins notes—they encountered a group of people who hurled racist and transphobic slurs at them.

"They were pretty lit up. And they were white supremacists. I mean, one guy had a swastika tattooed on his chest," Jenkins says. They started throwing punches; one slashed CeCe across the face.

At the time, CeCe was a fashion design student at MCTC, so she had a pair of

CeCe was charged with two counts of second-degree murder. She was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to 41 months. And she was sent to a men's correctional facility in St. Cloud.

"But that sparked an international movement around trans rights," Jenkins says. LGBTQ organizations around the country wrote letters to Mike Freeman in support of CeCe. One of the most famous trans people at the time, the revolutionary activist Leslie Feinberg, took up the cause, and was arrested for spray-painting "Free CeCe Now" on the Hennepin County Courthouse. Laverne Cox made a documentary about her struggle.

"CeCe led that," Jenkins says. "From jail. She sparked her own movement." And on January 13, 2014, she was released, after serving 19 months. (Cox was among those who greeted her at prison; she later says she envisioned her *Orange Is the New Black* character as an homage to CeCe.)

"CeCe was a survivor," Jenkins says. "So far 15 trans women this year have not survived. They have been killed. Twenty-eight trans women last year. Twenty-six the year before that. The numbers just keep rising. One hundred and seventy-two trans people have been murdered since 2013, and 73 percent have been black. The violence is real."

Black trans woman Iyanna Dior was just brutally beaten in St. Paul during the protests, as people stood around watching and filming the attack.

"The statement that Black Lives Matter—it has to be all Black lives," Jenkins says. "Transgender people are Black lives. We have lots of work ahead of us."

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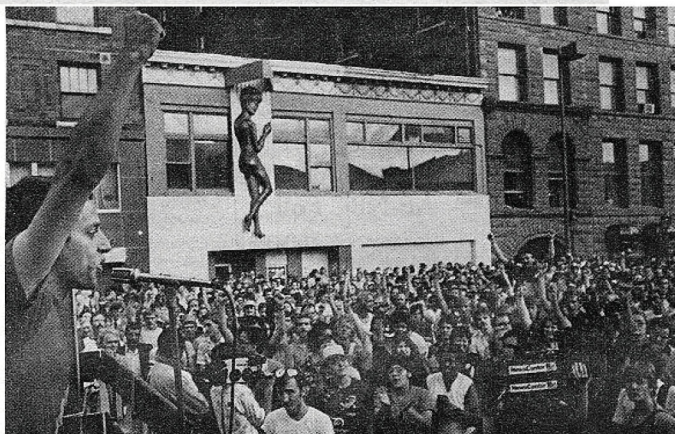


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5.

Gay Pride v. the City of Minneapolis

"It is hardly known—except by a few scholars and those who lived through the events—that in 1980 and 1981 a small group of determined persons in Minneapolis fought, and eventually won, the right to hold a Gay Pride block party on the city's leading thoroughfare over the opposition of almost the entire Minneapolis political establishment."

So civil liberties lawyer Norman Dorsen writes in the instantly grabbing preface to Jason Smith's 2011 book *Gay Pride v. The City of Minneapolis*.

As Dorsen notes, the story is simple enough. Local gay rights organizations wanted to hold a parade on Hennepin. The city repeatedly denied their requests, even though other groups and businesses had been allowed to shut down the street for their causes and companies over the years. Activists went up against the city, and on Friday, June 26, 1981, following an "exhausting three-year struggle in a federal courtroom," the city's first Gay Pride Block Party was held.

"I was nervous that night, but also tremendously excited," recalls Claude Peck, a Minneapolis-based writer and editor and Target City Coalition member

who fought in favor of the party at the time. "After years when gay men gathered mainly in windowless gay bars, this giant celebration took place outside, on Hennepin, where the Aquatennial and dozens of other groups had been granted permits."

Peck remembers that they didn't have a ton of planning time between the favorable ruling and the event itself, which meant a lot of it was organized and publicized at the last minute. "I rented a flatbed truck, literally tied the punk band Urban Guerillas onto the back of it with their equipment, and drove around the corner from Fourth Street onto Hennepin Avenue in front of the Gay 90's," he says.

It sounds like a lot of fun, right? And it was! Peck remembers the crowd going wild, the music, the passionate speeches by Brad Golden of Target City Coalition and Matt Stark, the "pugnacious heterosexual MCLU director who by then had led several other landmark court fights for gay rights in Minnesota, often without the support of DFLers." (In fact, it was the DFL-controlled Minneapolis City Council that had been blocking Block Party permits for years.)

But the event was a lot more than just a big party on Hennepin. In his book, Smith argues that this was a turning point in gay rights organizing in the Upper Midwest and a factor in shifting public attitudes about homosexuality and civil rights.

"On one side of the issue were Gay activists and their straight allies and supporters who wanted immediate recognition and support of their rights by society and its institutions of power," Smith writes. "On the other side were City Council members who opposed any recognition of Gay rights, and conservative Gay leaders who favored a 'go-slow' approach that they hoped would, little by little, lead to greater acceptance of Gay men and Lesbians by society."

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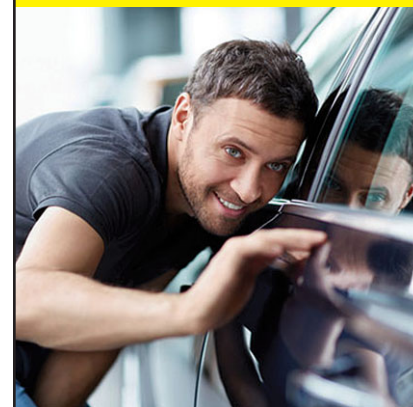
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TOM SWEENEY

As Peck puts it: “The party was also a precedent.”

Scenes from the first Gay Pride Block Party

6.

The quiet revolution of POC queer community-building

Something you’ll quickly notice about the written and recorded queer history of the Twin Cities is that it’s very, very white.

Jason Jackson remembers looking for Black queer history and talking to Stewart van Cleve, author of *Land of 10,000 Loves: A History of Queer Minnesota*. “Me being bold, I was like, ‘I’m kind of curious to know what were you able to find around Black queer history in the Twin Cities?’ And he was like, ‘Unfortunately, there isn’t a lot of information.’”

Jackson, who’s now a Diversity and Inclusion Consultant at HealthPartners, knew that just because the information wasn’t readily available, that didn’t mean it didn’t exist. So he started looking into the hidden Black queer history of the Twin Cities, digging into the archives and hunting down old news stories. Eventually, he put together a project called “Unheard Voices: Black LGBT History in the Twin Cities.” (It’s available today in the U of M’s Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies.)

“I started to ask myself the question: What is Black, queer Minnesota? What are the stories I wouldn’t know about the place I now call home?” Jackson asks. “Where are their faces? Where are their voices? Where were they?”

Jackson explains that much of Minnesota’s early Black queer organizing is the kind of stuff that didn’t make it

into periodicals. “These organizations may have not had 501c3s, you know?” Jackson explains. “They were kitchen-table organizations. Who’s going to give us a 501c3 for Black Pride in the ‘80s?” They were more like social support networks, fundraising and hosting events, sure, but also lifting each other up and making one another feel heard.

One of those groups was Taranga, which became a space for Black queer men just to be in community with each other. Black men were still targets of discrimination within the gay community in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s (and, let’s be honest, are to this day). Jackson heard from men who were routinely asked to show three pieces of ID to get into gay bars, who were hassled in ways their white counterparts weren’t.

There was also the organization Men of Color, which Jackson describes as “the welcome wagon”—if you were a gay person of color who moved to town in the ‘90s, they’d know about it, and make sure someone reached out, came to visit, made you feel part of the community.

Then there was the group Women of Color Stirfry. “It was social and philanthropic, in a way,” recalls Stirfry’s Rosanna Hudgins. “We wanted to give back to community... it was a way to connect with other queer folks of color, and we tried to give back to community in whatever way we could.”

Some of those donations went toward producing *My Girlfriend Did It*, a groundbreaking film produced by Casa de Esperanza that’s one of the first training videos on on woman-to-woman intimate partner violence. Hudgins was also the statewide

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CLAUDE PECK

coordinator for same-sex domestic violence for the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault—the only person of color on the staff—and the video has been lauded for its focus on racial diversity and lesbian point of view in 1995. Hudgins is also responsible for bringing Audre Lorde to speak

playing outside, if you saw a bunch of white people coming your way to split and run. Kids would disappear. Adults would disappear. They’d turn up dead somewhere.”

“Queer black people and queer people of color—having to push up against

“What is Black, queer Minnesota? What are the stories I wouldn’t know about the place I now call home?”

at a women’s studies conference at the U.

This kind of activism doesn’t have the spectacle of tossing a pie in someone’s face, doesn’t have the flair of a parade down Hennepin. Black activists in the movement’s early days had to work within systems that were safe, that worked for them. Because to even be queer and a person of color is radical.

“I remember segregation,” says Hudgins. Growing up in Kansas City, “We were taught as kids, if we were

racism within the queer community, and homo- and transphobia within all communities—we always find ways to take care of ourselves and each other,” Jackson says. “It feels really authentic, it feels like when I ask you how are you, I actually mean how are you? It means I’m going to take care of you, because I see you in myself.”

“It’s not going to get on the cover of Time magazine, and that’s okay. That’s not the point. The point is to survive.”

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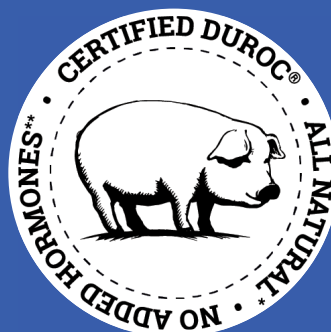
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BY SARAH BRUMBLE

It's not only the fantastic ice cream, beer, and entrees created at these spots that make us care deeply about them: From stepping up in the moment, to reopening their doors in models that contribute to greater equity, these establishments exemplify what it means to serve and nourish. Each also exhibits a sense of hospitality that can't be bound by notions of "place" and "space."

This is why we so strongly advocate for restaurants, folks! This industry's ability to provide a hub for service-minded individuals is unparalleled... and sometimes, as in the cases below, they have the potential to do a remarkable amount of good together, even in the midst of a gal-dang pandemic.

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just/us

Noting that whole stretches of the Twin Cities had become a food desert in a matter of days, just/us sought to "bring food to the people of St. Paul and Minneapolis as they demand justice for George Floyd." Mid-pandemic, for days on end, powered by PayPal donations, they provided the public with free meals at outdoor community spaces throughout the Twin Cities (including the memorial site at 38th and Chicago), and channeled all surplus tips and funds to Reclaim the Block. "It was alllll love!" As of last week, they're back at home after their three-month COVID hiatus, slinging a totally revamped menu that's available from their walk-up takeout window. 274 E. Fourth St., St. Paul

Modern Times

"It does not feel right for us to try and reopen for business and continue operating as we previously had," south Minneapolis's Modern Times cafe wrote on June 7, by way of announcing that after falling quiet for months, they would once again welcome guests—but under a new business model that better reflects the present social climate. "After becoming nearly inoperable because of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by police terror and civil unrest, we decided to temporarily transition to a business model whose sole purpose is to foster and support our greater community." In practice, this means staff are working as volunteers, the cafe will operate on a pay-what-you-can basis, and—with the blessing of a landlord who furloughed their rent—all proceeds from

the month of June will be donated back to community coffers. 3200 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis

Modist Brewing

To support individuals protesting the murder of George Floyd and police brutality, the North Loop brewery switched up its operations, including closing the taproom and patio and temporarily suspending deliveries to better support protesters. Modist began offering protesters free hot dogs, first aid, water, and not-not the occasional complimentary beer... shh! They became a drop-off point for first aid supplies with the help of local musician and street medic Nur-D, and pledged to brew the "Black is Beautiful" stout, the

proceeds of which they'll donate to Justice Frontline Aid. All of the aforementioned is hugely generous no matter how you slice it, but extraordinarily so when taking into account the business forecast so many Minnesota craft brewers anticipate in the coming months. 505 N. Third St., Minneapolis

Pimento Jamaican Kitchen

As soon as protests erupted seeking justice for George Floyd, the folks behind Eat Street's Pimento Jamaican Kitchen stepped into action. For a brief moment, takeout cuisine continued to flow from the business's restaurant side until the grassroots donation center that had sprung up on the Rum Bar side took precedence. There,

they'd collected and distributed food, medical supplies, hygiene products, and home goods to the Whittier neighborhood since May 29. When restaurant operations resumed for takeout and delivery, it was alongside the team's coordinated supply distribution and fund-raising efforts, which Scott McDonald, Pimento's booking manager, told the Southwest Journal will exist "as long as the need is here for us to provide any food or services." 2524 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis

Seward Cafe

The worker-owned cafe run by the Radical Roots Collective has continually adapted to the pandemic to safely serve the needs of their customers and the community, including testing out an online ordering system featuring pantry staples with weekly home delivery. "We've always functioned as both restaurant and social center," they wrote in an update about a month ago, which was accompanied by a photo of a new garden row mid-tending outside the cafe. Though guests must wait a bit longer to settle into the collective's booths for the breakfasts and lunches the cafe has served since 1974, the space and grounds have become a donation drop-off and distribution center for home goods and hygiene products, all while offering free meals daily to anyone in need. Never much for a fuss, they write, "We're just the space; everything is from neighbors to neighbors." 2129 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis

World Street Kitchen and Milkjam Creamery

From already donating \$10,000 to Black Visions Collective, Northside Funders Group, Reclaim the Block, We Love Lake Street, and the Racial Justice Network, to announcing an indefinite offer of providing those in need with free meals, and pausing marketing efforts due to an awareness of their dissonance right now, the linked establishments of World Street Kitchen and Milkjam Creamery have demonstrated through walk-not-talk why it's worth sauntering into their joints, and soon. WSK has announced that they'll be staying the takeout and delivery only course in this year of contagious revolution (or at least for the moment). Meanwhile, next-door buddy Milkjam Creamery just reopened its scoop shop to walk-in customers, who've long utilized the city's summertime months for a good old stroll-and-lick anyway. 2743 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis

Places like Modern Times are reopening with new visions that extend hospitality to the greater community.



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LYN-LAKE LOSES TWO MORE INSTITUTIONS

It's the end of the road for Fuji-Ya and the Herkimer



SARAH BRUMBLE

BY JAY BOLLER AND SARAH BRUMBLE

Minneapolis's staunchest Packer bar, the Herkimer Pub and Brewery, announced they're throwing in the towel after 20 years in business.

(No, they did not appoint a successor to the cheesehead throne, which means things could get ugly if and when the NFL returns to the field.)

"We know The Herkimer has been a second home to SO many of us over the years, and we are extremely sad that our time with you is coming to an end," wrote the establishment's team in a parting message posted June 21 to Facebook. They continued, thanking their "phenomenal guests and fiercely loyal staff," who were praised for evolving along with the Uptown and Lyn-Lake neighborhoods over the decades.

The Herkimer's statement tackled the pandemic's role in its impending closure head-on. "The industry is so uncertain right now and we're simply unsure how we would be able to navigate these times with confidence, knowing there is so much more uncertainty to come," they wrote. "Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, it had become increasingly apparent that the evolving character of the industry was becoming less able to sustain a neighborhood pub like us."

Given the fate of the Herkimer, eyes turn to owner Blake Richardson's other nearby dining operation, Moto-i, which just hosted a grand reopening of its rooftop patio on

June 17, and in a magnanimous gesture has been donating 50 percent of to-go bottled sake sales to local nonprofit organization Black Visions Collective.

News of the Herkimer's closure came just three days after word spread that neighboring Fuji-Ya, yet another treasured old-school Lyn-Lake holdout, wouldn't be reopening.

On May 7, after weeks of offering takeout during the COVID-19 shutdown, Fuji-Ya announced a temporary closure via its Facebook page. Now its website simply reads: "Thank you for your support. Unfortunately we are closing our doors." Fuji-Ya sustained damage following last month's rioting after the police killing of George Floyd. Some of the vandalism included a Nazi swastika, according to an unconfirmed social media post.

The building that housed the sushi institution, which first opened in 1959 by original owner Reiko Weston in downtown Minneapolis, is currently bank-owned and for sale. "Due to bank privacy regulations and rules, I can't really give you information on Fuji-Ya, specifically," Adam Barrett, the listing agent with real estate firm Carlson Partner, told City Pages.

Will Fuji-Ya reemerge elsewhere? Unclear! Its owners did not respond to calls and messages.

Back at the Herkimer, fans of their solid jukebox, praise-worthy fries, and house-made energy drink have through midnight on Wednesday, June 24 to sneak in one last masked, socially distanced round... and maybe a game or two of bags. 



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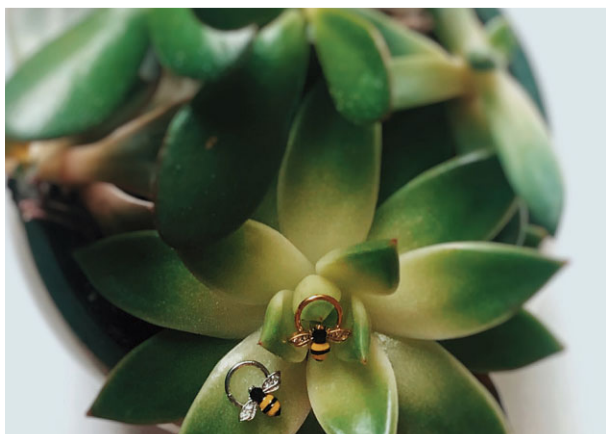
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COURTESY OF GRUMPY'S

The ghost of Death Comedy Jam is alive once again.

Over the course of 15 years, hundreds of established comedians, open mic performers, and absolute trainwrecks graced the stage at Grumpy's Bar in downtown Minneapolis, aka the "worst comedy room in the country." Then, in 2018, Death Comedy Jam came to an end when Grumpy's was torn down.

This week, the storied open mic will be resurrected again in Ian Rans's documentary, *Death's Last Stand*. Shot during the open mic's final night, the film follows the show's hosts—Chris Maddock, Patrick Bauer, and Wayne

Burfeind—along with a cast of comics including Miss Shannan Paul, Tiffany Norton, Bryan Miller, and Isaac Witty as they provide a glimpse into the show's history and legacy.

"I started working at Grumpy's as a waiter and barback back in 2000," recalls

DEAD ALIVE

Grumpy's Death Comedy Jam lives on in a new documentary

BY PATRICK STRAIT

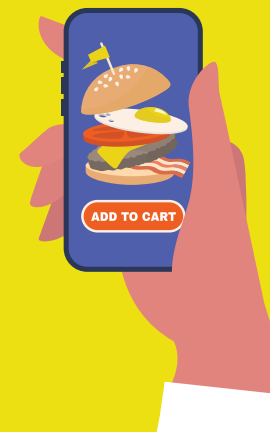
Chris Maddock, the man who helmed the Jam since its beginning in 2003. "At that point, I had done comedy maybe a handful of times, but they knew I had done it so they asked me."

Maddock teamed up with Dan Schlissel from Stand Up! Records,

and started hosting the evening. "Every week I was just terrified," he admits. "I felt like I didn't belong in the comedy scene, and I was just sick to my stomach every Wednesday. After a couple of years, I thought it was going to get shut down because there weren't a lot of people coming. Then it went on for 13 more years."

Those next 13 years would see a lot of memorable moments take place at the bar, with headliners like Maria Bamford, Doug Stanhope, and Andy Kindler gracing the Grumpy's stage. But the real legacy of Death Comedy Jam comes from the local comics who kept coming back each week.

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COURTESY OF DEATH COMEDY JAM

"Bryan Miller touches on it in the documentary when he says that Grumpy's was sort of a neutral ground for local comedians," says Rans. "The show worked because it wasn't overly aspirational. Everybody wasn't there 100 percent and just doing their old material that they know works. They were trying out actual, legitimate new material—and that would often fall flat on its face. The room itself kind of had this 'loveable loser' quality to it, even though none of the comics would live up to that. Shit could happen there that couldn't happen in other comedy rooms."

While plenty of that shit is included in the film, a few moments have been left to legend. Like the time Maddock was punched on stage.

"This fella was about six-foot-seven, a real giant man. He was sitting in the front booth by himself and just giving every comic crap," recalls Maddock. "So when he went up [to perform], we kept flicking the lights on and off and turning the music up on him. He wouldn't get off the stage, so I went up and told him to give me the mic. And in the middle of a sentence he took his hand that was holding the mic and he just clobbered me on the side of the head."

Another time, Sir Ian McKellen decided

to come by the Jam.

"He was doing *King Lear* at the Guthrie, and he and a few others decided to come and watch the show," recalls Maddock. "He said he didn't want to go to Sea Change nearby because, '\$9 for a glass of wine? This place is more my speed.'"

While those stories may not have made the cut, the documentary does a great job of showcasing why Grumpy's and Death Comedy Jam have such a special place in the hearts of comics and fans in Minneapolis years after its demise.

Clips feature Miss Shannan Paul, who explains that a joke that worked at Grumpy's could work anywhere; stories of established comics bombing spectacularly; and Isaac Witty getting emotional about his favorite memories of the show, both on and off stage.

The comradery, the insanity (where else can you see the Grin Reaper doing bad cruise-ship comedy?), the laughter, and the sense of unharnessed creativity that happened on that tiny stage downtown may never be duplicated, but thanks to the documentary, we can all have one last visit with an old friend.

You can watch Death's Last Stand on Ian Rans's YouTube channel.



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UPTOWN MALL IS NO LONGER NAMED AFTER A WHITE SUPREMACIST

Meanwhile, Kitchen Window is still awesome

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

The indoor mall formerly known as Calhoun Square will soon be rechristened. Last Friday, Northpond Partners, which purchased the building in October 2019, stated via a press release that they’d already been considering a name change. “As a reflection of our support and solidarity with the City of Minneapolis and the Black Lives Matter movement, we have decided to expedite the process.” The change is “effective immediately.” The iconic (and problematic) signage is no more.

The mall, which opened in the 1980s,

was named after the nearby lake, which was named after an influential piece of garbage who didn’t even have any real connection to Minnesota. “A property named for a known racist and champion of slavery has no place in Minneapolis or anywhere in our society,” the release from Northpond further states. A primer on John C. Calhoun, and why he sucked: Hailing from South Carolina, Calhoun served as a senator, United States Secretary of War, and V.P. under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. During his influential career he supported slavery, state’s rights, and the “Southern” (white, uppercrust) way of life. So how did the lake get its name? When



JAY BOLLER

Calhoun sent a team out to Minnesota to survey areas for Fort Snelling, one of the surveyors slapped their boss’s name on the lake as well. The soon-to-be-reimagined mall will get a new name and a new fancy sign. That’s exciting news, right? There can’t be too many fans of the old mall; for years it has struggled to retain retailers, restaurants, and clubs. Meanwhile, the

bevy of George Floyd murals throughout Uptown has upped foot traffic significantly. Last week was tough for the people of the world who don’t like change; HBO Max announced that it would be streaming *Gone with the Wind* with an “outdated” disclaimer, Aunt Jemima is no more, and the Twins toppled a statue of their former racist owner Calvin Griffith.

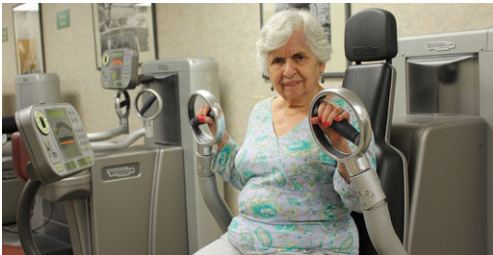


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BY KEITH HARRIS

You might know Naeem Juwan's music even if the name doesn't sound familiar. As Spank Rock, the Baltimore-born rapper has been spitting often hilarious, often dirty rhymes over rough-edged electronic beats with his musical partner Amanda Blank since the mid-'00s. But that's an alter ego you can imagine an artist wanting to shuffle off as he nears 40. And after a recent trip through Minneapolis, en route from his old home of Philadelphia to his new one in Los Angeles, Naeem (as he's now known) finished the album that allowed him to do just that.

Startisha is a collection of unconventional beauty, moving between musical styles in a manner that's often surprising but always graceful. The expressive voice that recasts the opening track, the Silver Apples '60s psychedelic chestnut "You and I," is not one of velveteen R&B but something more idiosyncratically human. Elsewhere Naeem collaborates with soul eccentric Swamp Dogg, Bon Iver's Justin Vernon (who has named a song after him), stylistically like-minded local Velvet Negróni, and, on a truly filthy track, Blank and Micah James. But maybe the standout cut here is the title track, a wistful, emotionally nuanced look back at a girl Naeem grew up with in Baltimore that's linked to a melody I haven't been able to shake since I first heard it.

We spoke with Naeem by phone last week about the new developments in his music, particularly about how his 18-month stay in Minneapolis shaped *Startisha* and helped him re-imagine the collaborative process.

City Pages: At what point during the recording of this album did you start thinking, "This doesn't feel like a Spank Rock album, maybe it's time to use a new name"?

Naeem Juwan: It was at the very end. I was working on the record, especially once I got to Minneapolis, and was deep in the project, and I knew I was moving to L.A. With all the major life changes that were happening pushing me over the edge, I realized I could put this out under a different name. Under my own name.

CP: What sorts of major life changes? Moving?

NJ: Yeah, mostly. I'd been in Philadelphia for like 18 years, and I was supposed to move to Los Angeles, because my boyfriend got a job there. But I didn't want to live in L.A. at all so I went to Minneapolis instead. I knew that my time was going to be short

FINDING HIS VOICE

How a detour through Minneapolis helped Spank Rock reemerge as Naeem on *Startisha*



SHANE MCCAULEY

there—but I planned to be there for six months and turned out to be more like a year and a half!

After leaving Philly, this city I had just an extreme connection to, that was just one of my favorite places in the world—it really rocked me, I really felt uprooted. And then getting to Minneapolis and feeling like, "Aw man, I really found my people." It was crazy; I felt like I was this lost Smurf, that I should have been in this little village my entire life.

CP: What brought you out here in the first place?

NJ: Ryan Olson is the dude who really invited me out, before I moved there, just to play some festivals, some shows. When I got there it was mostly hanging out with Ryan, all the homies in Polica and Marijuana Deathsquads. When I decided to move, Justin [Vernon] was like, "Yo, the apartment building I'm living in has an opening," so I moved in there. Justin and his best friends, a trumpet player, Trever [Hagen], and he was on the album too. It was just like the Chipmunks on something, running up and down to each others' apartments.

I came out to finish the album that I'd started in Philly, coming out there to maybe

put some final touches on it. That was what the six months was supposed to be for. But then I started making friends and seeing people again. I'd been friends with Har Mar [Superstar] for such a long time, him being there, helping me out—he gave me a mattress! This extremely expensive orthopedic or whatever mattress, it was crazy. Unlike anything I'd ever slept on in my life. I just had so many great homies there that it went from "I'm just gonna take six months to finish this record" to "I think I'm never gonna leave."

CP: You've mentioned Prince as an influence. Can you talk about some of the ways he's shaped how you work?

NJ: One thing I learned about Prince, he always had his crew, his family around him, like regardless. His band wasn't changing as drastically as it appeared. He was just using different musicians in different roles at the time. And to me, that just felt really Minneapolis at the core. I was learning a lot working with Ryan. He always had so many friends working on each others' projects all the time, being supportive of each other. Like, Velvet Negróni's on the album because he's just hanging out, and this is somebody where I was obsessed with

his first album, really looked up to him a lot, and I feel like he wouldn't have been there to be a verse on my album if there wasn't that blueprint of always having friends around.

CP: There's a retrospective feel to a lot of this album. There's a lot of looking back. Was that a conscious choice or just a consequence of getting older?

NJ: I set goals for this album, because I feel like I'd lost my way a bit as a songwriter, like I didn't have the same fire, the feeling that I had something to say. I wanted to make a new album but I didn't have that young rapper spirit anymore, where you feel like everything you want to say is fucking brilliant. I was setting rules, like "These are what classic songs are. This is what makes a good song a good song." And it was really about pulling from personal experiences. Half the album is retrospective because for me, all my personal experiences at the time were so boring. I was just sitting around, like doing nothing. I had nothing to pull from really. So I started thinking, "What's important here? What made you who you are today?" and then I tried to focus on those things. Some things are more recent. A lot of things that were speaking to me and were popping in my head were things that drew me back to my childhood. I wanted it to be personal, so I wanted to think about Baltimore.

CP: You've spoken before about the process of becoming comfortable with your singing voice. Who have you listened to and what steps have you taken to ease into that new part of your performance style?

NJ: I had to take one class; they taught me the mechanics of singing, and that got me to the point where I thought I can sing in front of... my engineer now. But I only took one voice lesson. And as I made this album and I wanted to sing more, I was writing songs in other people's voices, a lot of imitations, and on a lot of the demos, I can hear I'm singing a different way. I want to prevent myself from sounding different on every song, on every album. I was listening to a lot of funny-voiced singers, the kind who don't feel confident. So like, Andre3000, a big influence—I love Andre's voice, but I remember seeing how uncomfortable he looked onstage when he had to sing *The Love Below* songs. Then I go back to Parliament Funkadelic where a lot of the voices are really soulful and brash, not these perfect voices. I go to Leonard Cohen so often, because he was poet who wan't supposed to be a singer, but he decided to sing his poetry anyway. Stuff like that inspires me. **CP**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Breznsky

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): In addition to being a magnificent storyteller, Aries author Barbara Kingsolver raises chickens at her home. “There are days when I am envious of my hens,” she writes, “when I hunger for a purpose as perfect and sure as a single daily egg.” Do you ever experience that delightful rush of assurance, Aries? I suspect that you’re likely to do so on multiple occasions in the coming weeks. And if you are indeed visited by visions of a perfect and sure purpose, your next task will be to initiate practical action to manifest it in the real world.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Nobel Prize-winning Taurus physicist Richard Feynman got his undergraduate degree from prestigious MIT and his PhD from prestigious Princeton University. Later he taught at prestigious Caltech. But his approach to education had a maverick quality. “Study hard what interests you the most in the most undisciplined, irreverent, and original manner possible,” he advised his students. I think his strategy will work well for you in the coming weeks, which will be a favorable time to gather valuable information and polish your existing aptitudes.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You’re entering a phase when you’ll have the potential to upgrade and fine-tune your relationship with money. In the hope of encouraging that prospect, I offer you the counsel of author Katharine Butler Hathaway. “To me, money is alive,” she wrote. “It is almost human. If you treat it with real sympathy and kindness and consideration, it will be a good servant and work hard for you, and stay with you and take care of you.” I hope you’ll consider cultivating that approach, dear Gemini: expressing benevolence and love toward money, and pledging to be benevolent and loving as you use the money you acquire.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): “Who would deduce the dragonfly from the larva, the iris from the bud, the lawyer from the infant?” Author Diane Ackerman asks her readers that question, and now I pose the same inquiry to you—just in time for your Season of Transformation. “We are all shape-shifters and magical reinventors,” Ackerman says. I will add that you Cancerians now have the potential to be exceptional shape-shifters and magical reinventors. What new amazements might you incorporate into your life? What dazzling twists and twinkles would you like to add to your character? What will the Future You be like?

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Qabalistic teacher Ann Davies asked, “If you stick your finger in the fire, do you then complain that it is unfair when your finger gets burned? Do you call the fire bad?” I offer you this caution, Leo, because I want to encourage you not to stick your fingers or toes or any other parts of you into the fire during the coming weeks. And I’m happy to inform you that there are better approaches to finding out what’s important to learn about the fire. The preferred way is to watch the fire keenly and patiently from a modest distance. If you do so long enough, you’ll get all you need.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In accordance with upcoming astrological portents, I urge you to engage in a vigorous redefinition of the term “miracle.” That will open you up to the full range of miraculous phenomena that are potentially available in the coming weeks. For inspiration, read this passage by Faith Baldwin: “Miracles are everyday things. Not only sudden great fortune wafting in on a new wind. They are almost routine, yet miracles just the same. Every time something hard becomes easier; every time you adjust to a situation which, last week, you didn’t know existed; every time a kindness falls as softly as the dew; or someone you love who was ill grows better; every time a blessing comes, not with trumpet and fanfare, but silently as night, you have witnessed a miracle.”

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): When Libras become authoritative enough to wield clout in their own sphere of influence, it’s often due to three factors: 1. the attractive force of their empathy; 2. their abilities to listen well and ask good questions, which help enable them to accurately read people’s emotional energy; 3. their knack for knowing specific tricks that promote harmony and a common sense of purpose. If you possess any of these talents, dear Libra, the next eight weeks will be a favorable time to employ them with maximum intensity and ingenuity and integrity. You’re primed to acquire and wield more leverage.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There is only one kind of erotic intimacy between consenting adults that can truly be called “unnatural”: an act that is physically impossible to perform. Everything else is potentially vitalizing and holy. No one knows this better than you Scorpios. You’re the champions of exotic pleasure; the connoisseurs of blissful marvels; the masters of curious delight and extraordinary exultation. And from an astrological perspective, the coming weeks will be a time when these aspects of your character could be especially vivid. But wait a minute. What about the pandemic? What about social-distancing? What about being cautious in seeking intimate connection? If anyone can work around these constraints so as to have sexual fun, it’s your tribe. Use your imagination!

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When he was 22 years old, Sagittarian-born Werner Heisenberg received his doctorate in physics and mathematics from a German university—even though he got a grade of C on his final exams. Nine years later, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics because of his pioneering work on quantum mechanics. What happened in between? One key development: He was mentored by physicists Niels Bohr and Max Born, both of whom also garnered Nobel Prizes. Another factor in his success was his association with other brilliant colleagues working in his field. I hope this story inspires you Sagittarians to be on the lookout for catalytic teachers and colleagues who can expedite your evolution. The planetary omens are favorable for such an eventuality.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You Capricorns aren’t renowned for causing controversy. For the most part you’re skillful at managing your reputation and keeping it orderly. But there may soon be a departure from this norm. A bit of a hubbub could arise in regards to the impressions you’re making and the effects you’re generating. I’m reminded of Capricorn author J. D. Salinger, whose book *Catcher in the Rye* was for a time widely taught in American schools but also widely banned because of its allegedly controversial elements. These days the book is regarded as a beloved classic, and I suspect you will weather your commotion with similar panache.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Novelist Tom Robbins articulated a vision of what it means to be bold and brave. He said, “Real courage is risking something that might force you to rethink your thoughts and suffer change and stretch consciousness.” I’m hoping you will make that formula your keynote in the coming weeks. The time is right for you to summon extra amounts of fortitude, determination, and audacity. What new possibilities are you ready to flesh out in ways that might prod you to revise your beliefs and welcome transformation and expand your awareness?

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Joan of Arc performed her heroic and magical feats in 1430 and 1431. But she wasn’t canonized as a saint until 1920—almost five centuries later. It took a while to garner the full appreciation she deserved. I’m sure you won’t have to wait as long to be acknowledged for your good deeds and fine creations, Pisces. In fact, from what I can tell, there’ll be a significant honor, enhancement, or reward coming your way sometime in the next four months. Start visualizing what you’d like it to be, and set your intention to claim it.

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DOG CATCHERS
BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 COVID testing requirements
- 6 \$5
- 10 Some homeschoolers
- 14 Rigid doctrine
- 15 Former NBA player nicknamed The Candy Man
- 16 Note in Nuremberg
- 17 “Lil’” cartoon character
- 18 Like a real scuzzbucket
- 19 Comic Drescher
- 20 What a freewheeling dentist does after putting on a crown?
- 23 Boxer’s feint
- 24 Word processor file
- 25 “Put a sock in it”
- 26 Crab eggs
- 27 Parisienne honorific: Abbr.
- 28 The goods place
- 30 “That’s impossible”
- 32 Alongside
- 34 63-Down’s org.
- 35 Debt letters
- 36 Tunes that soccer star Brandi likes?
- 41 Golden Knights milieu
- 42 ___ billing
- 43 “I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation” speaker
- 45 Savory taste
- 48 Hell of a guy?
- 50 ___ precaution
- 51 Instant lawn product
- 52 Bake on the beach
- 54 WWE star Mustafa

- 55 “UR the best!”
- 56 Emo casting call headline?
- 60 Stations of the Cross letters
- 61 “___, Sing America” (Langston Hughes)
- 62 “I ___ to die, Bury me low and let me lie” (Robert Louis Stevenson)
- 64 Bits of cocoa
- 65 Steve in the ESPN documentary “The Last Dance”
- 66 At full volume
- 67 Tween on “This is Us”
- 68 Chatted through a window?
- 69 48-Across’s quarry

Down

- 1 Metro stop: Abbr.
- 2 xkcd, e.g.
- 3 ___ Chase (Percy Jackson’s girlfriend)
- 4 Backing up sound
- 5 Some expensive strings
- 6 Bliss after pigging out
- 7 “Yeah, dog”
- 8 Win-win situation
- 9 Patty who sang “The Warrior”
- 10 Like chainsaw jugglers
- 11 The break of dawn
- 12 Pull from, as influences
- 13 Shakespearean writing
- 21 Scribble in

- the margins
- 22 Sch. of Athens
- 23 X5 and X7 automaker
- 29 Yogurt dish with a curry
- 31 Drop a few f-bombs
- 33 “Women in Music Pt. III” band
- 35 African antelope
- 37 Time traveling genre
- 38 “Hush your mouth!”
- 39 Pissed off words
- 40 Transaction done without taking credit
- 44 Salon application
- 45 Money maker?
- 46 Unification
- 47 Church member
- 47 Totes cute
- 48 Methodology
- 49 Assassins in black
- 53 Therapeutic touch
- 57 Besmirch one’s name
- 58 Zipped (through)
- 59 Riding mower brand
- 63 See 34-Across

Last Week’s Answer

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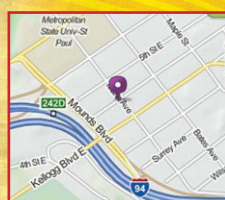


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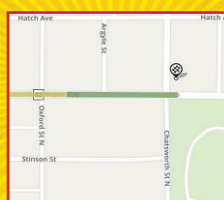
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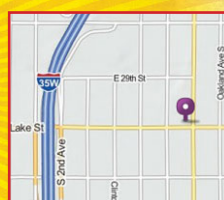
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SAVAGE LOVE

Blowing Up

My partner's old co-worker won't stop blowing up his phone!

I'm committed to my male partner and he's committed to me. (I'm a woman.) But we both understand we need to flirt and that we will both want to sleep with someone else at some point. We live together, we have a dog, and neither of us believes in marriage. We plan to purchase a house in the coming months. Here's the issue: He met a woman at work. He's not sexually attracted to her at all. She, however, would love to blow him. She's in an unhappy marriage and

has no friends. They exchanged numbers when my partner was transferred and now she texts him constantly. It doesn't totally bother me. But not only does she text him at all hours of the day and night, she continuously tells him he's the hottest man she's ever met. She sends him nudes, which I've seen, and says she wants to suck his "huge dick." (It is huge.) Even though I know he's not attracted to her, I'm still feeling threatened. I have low self-esteem right now and I'm struggling with depression. I'm speaking with a therapist and I'm on meds. But the meds have made me gain about 50 pounds, which doesn't help with the depression. I get the need and desire to flirt. But right now I'm not confident enough to be okay with him being sexual with another person even if it's just texts. And I feel this way knowing he has no plans to be with her! He continues to tell me he has no desire to spend his life with anyone but me. Yet he's suddenly hesitant to buy a house. I guess I'm asking WTF should I do?

DINGING PHONE REALLY EXACERBATING
SEMI-SERIOUS DEPRESSION

You say it doesn't bother you—it doesn't totally bother you—that this woman texts your partner day and night, DPRESSD, which strikes me as odd. Because that shit would drive me up the wall. Blowing up someone's phone at all hours of the day and nightscreams, "I HAVE NO BOUNDARIES! I AM INCAPABLE OF BEING CONSIDERATE! I HAVE NO SELF CONTROL!" Even if you were in a place where you felt better about your partner getting some attention elsewhere, the shit this woman is pulling would still be annoying, unsettling, and bothersome.



Dan Savage

This shit should be disqualifying. Your partner should've shut this woman down already. He should've told this woman to knock it off and, if she didn't, he should've told her to fuck the fuck off and blocked her number. If he tried to shut her down and she kept texting him, DPRESSD, I have to wonder why he hasn't he blocked her number. Assuming he's telling you the truth about not being attracted to her—and it sounds like he is—he may have allowed this to go on

because he enjoys feeling desirable and/or he doesn't want to hurt her feelings. If it's the former, make it clear to your partner that you wouldn't have a problem with him finding someone else to swap flirty sext messages with, so long as it's someone who can sext in moderation and at appropriate times. If it's the latter, DPRESSD, make it clear this shit is hurting your feelings and, as his partner, you expect him to prioritize your feelings over his former co-worker's.

Even if your partner has never said, "Don't text me at all hours of the day and night," that's no excuse. No one wants their phone or their partner's phone blowing up at 3 a.m.; that's not a boundary anyone should have to articulate to set and, articulated or not, no one with any common sense would do that.

As for the house, press your partner to clarify his sudden hesitancy. It may have nothing to do with your relationship; it's entirely possible he's freaked out by the state of the world—because, my god, who isn't?—and he's having second thoughts about sinking his savings into a house. Depression often puts the worst possible spin on things; it can lead us to reject a calming truth someone is telling us in favor of an alarming lie we're telling ourselves. Don't fall into that trap.

Finally, please talk to your doctor about switching out your meds. If weight gain is a side effect of the ones you're on now and weight gain is making you more depressed, then it doesn't make sense to keep treating your depression with your current meds.

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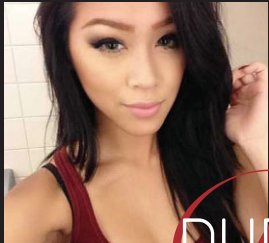
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 Neighbors, Inc., seeks volunteers to assemble kits for the food shelf. Personal care items (laundry detergent and personal hygiene products) are needed. Collect, assemble and label kits and deliver to the food shelf in South St. Paul.
<http://www.neighborsmn.org/>

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